(b) and (c) In the Indo-Myanmar border trade agreement of 21.1.94, 22 commodities have been identified for exchange including barter trade by people living along both sides of Indo-Myanmar border. These commodities include Mustard/Rape Seed, Pulses, and Beans, Fresh Vegetables, Fruits, Garlic, Onion, Chillies, Spices (excluding Nut Meg, Mace, Cassia and Cloves), Bamboo, Minor forest products excluding teak, Betel nuts and leaves, Food items for local consumption, Tobacco, Tomato, Reed Broom, Sesame, Resin, Corriander Seeds, Soyabean, Roasted Sunflower Seeds, Katha and Ginger. Border trade in other items are to be conducted as per Exim Policy in force.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to expand the border trade between North-Eastern States and neighbouring countries include improvement of infrastructural facilities along the trade routes, providing banking, immigration, customs and security arrangements at entry points and formalisation of trading norms.

Non-Payment of Arrears to Employees of P.N.B.

1183. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many retired employees of the Punjab National Bank have not been given their pension so far;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that many such retired employees have also not been paid their arrears of pay and allowances arising from revision of wages w.e.f. July 1, 1993;

(c) if so, the number of such retired employees of the Punjab National Bank who are yet to get their pension and arrears of pay and allowances as on September 30, 1996; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Punjab National Bank has reported that it has received options for pension from 2989 retired employees so far. Out of these, 1400 cases have already been sanctioned and disbursements have been made, while 1046 cases are in the process of calculation and sanction. The remaining 543 cases are pending for removal of discrepancies and for certain clarifications.

As regards payment of arrears of pay and allowances arising from revision of wages to the retired employees, the bank has reported that it has already advised all its offices/branches to make the payment of arrears of pay and allowances as admissible.

The bank has further reported that while it has not received any complaint with regard to non-payment of arrears of pay and allowances, it is once again advising all its offices/branches to make payments of arrears of pay and allowances to the remaining retired employees, if any.

Export of Toys

1184. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is enough prospects of exporting toys from the country but the high rate of import duty on raw materials and other taxes are the hurdles in their exports; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of toys in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The measures taken by the Government to boost the export of toys include, inter-alia, extension of market development assistance, liberalisation of policy and procedures, and promotion of measures like exchange of trade delegations, and dissemination of relevant information.

[Translation]

Bank Loan to SSI in Gujarat

1185. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications received by the nationalised banks in the country especially in the backward/rural/tribal regions of Gujarat during the last three years for loans from the small scale industrial units;

(b) the total number of applications accepted and rejected separately during the above period;

(c) the average of loan per application sanctioned, State-wise;

(d) whether the banks advanced loans in time to applicants/small scale units to save them from turning sick;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the number of cases of irregularities in grant of loan came to the notice of the Government and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon during the above period?